

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 13, and 15 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 15 have been amended. Claim 16 has been cancelled.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,177,685 (Davis) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,870,701 (Wachtel).

Davis is directed to an automobile navigation system using real time spoken driving instructions. According to Davis, a vehicle location system uses data from a position sensor installed in the automobile to track the location of the automobile. Discourse generating programs compose driving instructions and other messages which are communicated to the driver using a voice generating apparatus as the driver proceeds along the route. See Davis, column 1, line 65 – column 2, line 3.

Wachtel is directed to a signal processing method and apparatus suitable for processing input signals representative, for example, of words or other elemental units of a natural language.

In at least one embodiment of the present invention, if there is a data group (with no word) whose characteristic does not match the characteristic T extracted by the characteristic extractor unit, the characteristic is registered as a new data group. In such an instance, an appropriate word is attached to a data group in the database with no word by the word provision unit according to certain criteria. The word provision unit attaches an appropriate word representing the characteristic to the data group with no word by requesting a user (operator) input. See specification of the present invention, page 19, line 19 – page 20, line 2.

By classifying sensor data obtained from the information input unit using a word or an item, which is meaningful for a man through the above-identified processes, the status judgement from the sensor data can be facilitated.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 13, and 15 are patentable over the references, as neither Davis nor Wachtel, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, “attaching a word to said data of said new group temporarily stored to store said data of said new group in said database, *said word being input by a user*,” as recited in independent claim 1, for example [emphasis added].

In contrast to the present invention, the user in Davis simply presses a button such as “what now” or “shut up.” Thus, in Davis, the user is not providing input. Rather, the user is

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simply pressing a button to allow the system to execute a command. See Davis, column 20, lines 53-66. Moreover, in Davis, a word input by a user is not being attached to a new data group, as in the present invention.

In Wachtel, an operator of the system inputs instructions for the operation of devices. Thus, in Wachtel, a word input by a user is not being attached to a new data group, as in the present invention. Therefore, Wachtel adds nothing of relevance to Davis.

In light of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 2, 13, and 15 are patentable over the references, as neither of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified feature of the claims. As dependent claim 3 depends from independent claim 2, dependent claim 3 is patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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